



*Embassy of the United States of America
Yaounde, Cameroon*

LOCAL GRANTS PROGRAM

The U.S. Ambassador's Special Self-Help Fund

Dear Self-Help Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Ambassador's Special Self Help Fund. This document provides program guidelines, application instructions, and contact information. We have included an application form for your convenience.

This program is highly competitive, therefore, please read the program guidelines carefully. If you think that you have a project which fulfills the requirements of the fund, complete and submit your application for consideration by email to grantsyaounde@state.gov or to the following address:

**Self-Help Fund
Embassy of the United States of America
B.P. 817, Yaoundé**

Selection Timeline

Application deadline for current year: March 31. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

Selection period: April through June

Award period: August-September

We receive a high number of proposals each year and we try to respond to each applicant. If you have not heard from us within one (1) year of submitting your application, please request the status of your application via email at grantsyaounde@state.gov.

Important reminders

- **The Self-Help Application Form is FREE of charge and the Embassy DOES NOT request any payment to receive and evaluate a project.**
- Limit your answers in the application form to the lines provided.
- Sign the application.
- Do not submit any documents not requested in these instructions.
- If your project is chosen for consideration, someone will visit the site to talk to you about the proposal and verify the information on the application. Please remember to include a sketch and/or a description of how to locate your project's site. Include also a current mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address.
- Make a copy of the application and all supporting documents for your records.
- Send the original completed application to the Embassy.

Contact Information

Address: **Ambassador's Special Self-Help Fund**
Embassy of the United States of America
B.P. 817, Yaoundé

Email: grantsyaounde@state.gov

Telephone: 2220-1500 Ext. 4171

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 7:30 am - 5:00 pm and Friday 7:30 am - 12:30 pm

Thank you for your interest in the Ambassador's Special Self-Help Fund. We look forward to hearing from you.



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GUIDELINES

Funding Opportunity Title: Ambassador's Special Self-Help Fund

Notice of Funding Opportunity: AFYDE-16-GR-001-AF-010216

CFDA Number: 19.700

Funding Opportunity Description:

The Special Self-Help Fund (SSH) provides small-scale assistance to Cameroonian communities as part of the U.S. Government's commitment to support development activities in Cameroon. Since 1983, the U.S. Ambassador to Cameroon has funded small community projects under this program in all ten regions of Cameroon. The maximum support available for most projects is USD 10,000 (or about 6 million francs CFA). A single community/group cannot receive more than one grant in a given funding period.

Basic Project Requirements

- Initiated by the community and benefits the community by increasing income, or improving living conditions;
- Benefits a large number of people;
- Involves a significant local contribution such as labor, materials, land, equipment, or money;
- Within the ability of the community to operate and maintain;
- Completed within one year without requiring further Self-Help Fund assistance; and
- Respects environmental norms.

Project Categories and Acceptable Activities and Items

- ❖ **Water Supply and Sanitation:** Ensures broadly accessible, reliable and economically sustainable water and sanitation services to bolster healthy, secure, and prosperous communities.
 - **Safe Water Access:** Examples: Water pumps and distribution systems, well drilling, bore holes, spring capping.
 - **Basic Sanitation:** Increases access to and use of sanitation services for safe human waste disposal to protect human health and environmental quality. Examples: toilets, sinks, etc. Innovative approaches to building demand for sanitation-related products and services are encouraged.
- ❖ **Small construction projects:** Examples: school rooms, community centers, health facilities, toilets, foot bridges, workshops, grain storages, and rural airstrip for a hospital.
- ❖ **Social Services:** Improves the life and living conditions of special populations which may be vulnerable or at-risk on a temporary or chronic basis. These could include groups such as the disabled; orphans, children and at-risk youth; victims of gender-based violence; ethnic minorities, internally displaced or other socially excluded groups; the elderly; and female heads of household.
 - **Activities for Special Populations:** Creating income-generating activities; providing assistance for education and purchase of school equipment.
 - **Activities for Vulnerable Children:** Strengthening the capacity of families and communities to provide care, support, and protection for orphans and unaccompanied minors.
 - **Activities for Victims of Torture:** Addressing the physical and psychological effects of torture on victims, families and communities. Activities could be cross-cutting and include treatment, rehabilitation, re-integration, and advocacy.
 - **Activities for Other Targeted Vulnerable Groups:** Removing barriers to enable the full participation of vulnerable people in supportive communities. Activities could be cross-cutting and range from community advocacy and strengthening family reunification/foster care, to apprenticeship programs, and the integration of disabled or socially excluded workers into the workforce.
- ❖ **Social Assistance:** Provides financial or technical support for reforestation, and soil conservation in post-conflict or post-disaster settings. Provides assistance to those suffering from temporary shocks resulting from economic reform.



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Unacceptable Activities and Items

- Repair of existing facilities that are in poor shape as the result of neglect or lack of funds.
- Payment of recurring operating costs such as rent, salaries, administrative or operating costs, ongoing training/education needs, medications, fuel, animal feed, or seeds.
- Religious, political, or military activities, as well as those relating to police, prisons, or law enforcement.
- Revolving credit schemes.
- Office equipment and supplies such as computers, film projectors, stereos, pencils, paper, forms, folders, etc.
- Equipment or uniforms for national sport teams or national musical or dance groups.
- Land.
- Vehicles, luxury goods, gambling, or surveillance equipment.
- Abortion-related equipment and services.
- Pesticides, fungicides, or herbicides.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed in two phases according to their administrative compliance and their quality assessment. Projects which fail to fulfill the administrative compliance requirements will be excluded from further consideration.

➤ **Administrative compliance**

The application was submitted on the form posted on the embassy's website or collected from the Embassy and submitted within the announcement's deadline; form is complete, proposal meets program requirements and application includes all the supporting required documents.

➤ **Quality assessment (50 points)**

Assessment will be conducted by an evaluation panel on a scale from 0 to 50 points and recommendation for an award will be based on highest scores and total program funding:

A. Project justification, goals and benefits (20 points)

The proposal addresses a specific problem that affects the community and proposes a project that will improve the economic and/or social conditions at the community or village level. It targets an adequate number of people and describes how it will benefit the target population.

B. Sustainability and community ownership (10 points)

Ideal projects will demonstrate a high degree of community involvement to develop, implement, and monitor the project to assure successful completion and sustainability. The project has a concrete and realistic strategy for maintenance and follow-up to assure sustainability beyond project completion.

C. Budget and budget justification (10 points)

The budget description should detail all funds requested, as well as all community matching funds and in-kind contributions. The estimated expenditures of the proposed activities are necessary, reasonable, and realistic for the implementation of the project. Budgets submitted should follow the budget format provided. Please also specify whether matching funds and other contributions are pending or secured.

D. Organizational capacity and experience (5 points)

Applicants must show capacity to implement the scope and scale of the proposed work and the ability to successfully complete the project within the proposed budget and timeline. Organizations that have previously carried out similar or other development projects with a proven record of project completion may be ranked higher during the evaluation process.

E. Timeline and Readiness (5 points)

Project timeline should be feasible, appropriate and connected to project goals and budget. Readiness is the degree to which the project is ready for implementation in terms of land ownership, willingness, designs, and authorizations.



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Selection and Award Process

The program is highly competitive; historically, less than ten percent of the applications received each year are selected. If a project is chosen for consideration, someone from the U.S. Embassy will contact the applicant, verify the information, and visit the site. The stages in the selection and award process are:

- The SSH staff review all the applications and select a preliminary list of projects.
- The SSH committee reviews the preliminary list and selects the finalist projects.
- The SSH staff conduct site visits and work with potential grantees on suggested updates to the proposals. During this phase, the SSH coordinator makes the final recommendation to the committee and submits a final list of projects for the Ambassador's approval.
- The Ambassador, the Grants Officer and the organization's representative sign the agreements.
- The grants are awarded.

How to Apply for the Fund

- Complete the application form. The application form is available online or you can request one in person at the U.S. Embassy. A Word document can also be requested by email at grantsyaounde@state.gov.
- Type or write clearly and answer every question as best as possible.
- Include a specific budget with cost estimates and a timeline.
- Include a sketch or a description of how to find the project's site.
- The project's representative must sign the application form and give it to a local administrative authority for his or her signature. Examples of local administrative authorities are: the Community Development Officer, the Senior Divisional Officer, the Divisional Officer, or the Mayor.
- Make a copy of the application and all supportive documents for your records.
- Send the original completed application to the U.S. Embassy. Applications can also be sent by email to: grantsyaounde@state.gov.

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**The U.S. Ambassador's Special Self-Help Fund
Application**

Funding Opportunity #: AFYDE-16-GR-001-AF-010216

Date:

1. Title of Project:

1.1. Location of Project

Village or Quarter:

Sub-Division:

Division:

Province:

2. Financial support requested: FCFA

3. Community or Group Information (Please provide copy of legal registration)

Name of group or association:

President:

Address or P.O. Box:

Telephone:

Email:

Every project considered for funding will be visited before final approval. Please include a sketch or description with this application showing how to find you and your project site.

4. Project Representative

First Name:

Last name:

Title:

Address or P.O. Box:

Telephone:

Email:

5. Reference

First Name:

Last name:

Title:

Organization:

Address or P.O. Box:

Telephone:

Email:



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6. Description of Community Organization

- How long has the group existed?
- How many members?
- How often do you meet?
- How are you organized?
- What development activities has the organization implemented in support of the community?

7. Project Description

- Approximately how many people will benefit from this project?

Men _____ Women _____ Boys _____ Girls _____ Total: _____

- Describe the project:
- What is the purpose?
- Why is this project necessary?
- What is the expected impact of the project? (Describe the new situation that will arise because of the project)
If applicable, include sketches or drawings of any buildings. (These do not need to be formal blueprints.)
- What have you already done? Explain both planning and any construction. (Examples: foundation laid, walls raised to roof level, funds raised, etc.)
- When did work on the project begin or when do you anticipate it will begin?
- Explain how much work has to be done to complete the project and how long it will take. (You must attach an activity timeline like the sample on the last page of this form.)

7.1 Sustainability

- What is your organization's plan to ensure the project's sustainability? (e.g.: water management committee, community contributions for maintenance/repairs, etc.)

8. Project Financial Summary. Attach a detailed budget or cost estimate to your application. For equipment purchase, include pro forma invoices from at least two different sources.

- What is the total cost of this project?
- How much money have you already raised for this project and has it been used?
- Who provided this money?
- Are other embassies, donors, or government agencies providing money or support for this project? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please provide details:



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8.1. Community Contribution. What is the community contributing to this project? (Examples: 400 hours of volunteer labor per week; 1,300,000 million Francs CFA; 4 truckloads of sand; etc.)

- Labor: Yes ☐ No ☐ Describe:
- Equipment: Yes ☐ No ☐ Describe:
- Materials: Yes ☐ No ☐ Describe:
- Money: Yes ☐ No ☐ How much?
- Other: Yes ☐ No ☐ Describe:

8.2. Income Generation. When completed, will the project produce income? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, how much? Who will control any income generated? How will the income be used?

9. Embassy Grant

- How much money are you requesting from the United States Embassy? FCFA:

Signature of Sponsor

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Local Authority

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Applicant Check List

- Include a budget similar to Sample A on the following page preferably using the Excel file provided.
- Include a timeline similar to Sample B on the following page.
- Include a sketch and/or a description of how to locate your project's site.
- Verify that you have provided a correct and current mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address, if these are available.
- Sign the application.
- Make a copy of the application and all supportive documents for your records.
- Do not submit any documents that have not been requested.
- Send the original completed application to the Embassy.

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Sample A: Budget

The budget should be stated in local currency (francs CFA) and should include a budget summary and a budget narrative that includes the details of the costs associated with each phase and other relevant information to support the proposed budget. There should be a direct relationship between the activities described in the proposal and the budget. All proposals should use the following sample format and **preferably in Excel**:

Date:

BUDGET SUMMARY: INCLUDE NAME OF ORGANIZATION

NAME OF PROJECT	TOTAL (CFA)	FUNDING SOURCE		
		U.S. Embassy (CFA)	Community (CFA)	Total (CFA)
Phase I: Clearing of site and construction of foundation	63,500	52,500	11,000	63,500
Phase II: Raising of walls	43,000	35,000	8,000	43,000
Phase III: Windows and doors, painting, finishing	15,200	12,000	3,200	15,200
TOTAL	121,700	99,500	22,200	121,700

Date:

BUDGET NARRATIVE: INCLUDE NAME OF ORGANIZATION

				FUNDING SOURCE		
	UNITS	UNIT PRICE (CFA)	TOTAL (CFA)	U.S. Embassy (CFA)	Community (CFA)	Total (CFA)
Phase I: Clearing of site and construction of foundation						
Cement	5	2,000	10,000	0	10,000	10,000
Sand	3	1,000	3,000	3,000	0	3,000
Gravel	3	1,500	4,500	4,500	0	4,500
Skilled labor	2	10,000	20,000	20,000	0	20,000
Unskilled labor	5	5,000	25,000	25,000	0	25,000
TOTAL PHASE I			62,500	52,500	10,000	62,500
Phase II: Raising of walls						
Cement	10	2,000	20,000	20,000	0	20,000
Sand	5	1,000	5,000	0	5,000	5,000
TOTAL PHASE II			25,000	20,000	5,000	25,000
Phase III: Windows and doors, painting, finishing						
Window painting	1	300,000	300,000	250,000	50,000	300,000
Doors painting	1	200,000	200,000	100,000	100,000	200,000
TOTAL PHASE III			500,000	350,000	200,000	500,000
TOTAL			587,500	422,500	165,000	587,500



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Sample B: Activities Timeline

All proposals should use the following sample activities timeline.

Project Activities										
January 2015 – October 2015										
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Phase I										
Clearing of site	X									
Digging of foundation		X	X							
Construction of foundation			X	X						
Phase II										
Raising of walls				X	X	X				
Rafters, roofing, ceiling							X	X		
Flooring								X		
Phase III										
Windows/doors painting, finishing								X	X	
Submission of final report										X